

Monomoy National Wildlife Refuge

July 14 – 20, 2013 [Issue 10]

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Photo of the Week



Photo Credit: USFWS/Ravin Thomasson

Message from Monomoy

They are starting to spread their wings! As the summer heat increases our birds are beginning to fly. However the nesting season is not over yet; we ask that you please be mindful and respectful of posted areas as many of our breeding birds still have cryptic colored chicks. Migrants are on the move! Be on the lookout for staging shorebirds, but please do not disturb them. Many of these birds have flown long distances and are in need of rest! Monomoy is still experiencing high temperatures so please drink plenty of water and wear sunscreen.

2013 Field Season Update

This is a weekly synopsis of biological activities on South Monomoy, North Monomoy, and Minimoy Islands. Information within this report is subject to change. For up to date information, please contact Refuge Staff.

Bird Sightings

American crow	Red-winged blackbird
Double-crested cormorant	Black-bellied plover
Dunlin	Willet
Ruddy turnstone	Laughing gull
Great black-backed gull	Herring gull
Northern harrier	Snowy owl
Short-billed dowitcher	Black-crowned night-heron
Great egret	Snowy egret
Thick-billed murre	Turkey vulture
Osprey	Black skimmer
Yellow-crowned night-heron	Glossy ibis
Parasitic Jaeger	Redknots
American Bittern	Peregrine Falcon

Bird Activity

Piping Plovers (PIPL)

Currently there are 16 active nests/broods (3 actual nests). 4 nests hatched this week and 2 chicks reached fledged status. On 19 July one new nest was found. The PIPL with orange and green flags lost their nest this week to grackle predation. The North Monomoy Island PIPL brood was not seen during the last check on 18 July. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

American Oystercatchers (AMOY)

On South Monomoy Island 11 chicks have fledged from 6 broods. There are no active nests on South Monomoy and staff will continue to observe fledglings. On North Monomoy 4 chicks have fledged from 4 broods. On 18 July staff conducted nest checks and located 1 chick from broad creek island. On Minimoy 4 chicks have fledged from 3 broods. Staff conducted nest checks on 18 July and were unable to locate any chicks at the time. Staff will continue to monitor all islands for fledglings. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Common Terns (COTE)

To date only 16 plots remain with chicks less than 15 days old and/or nests. On 18 July staff starting removing plots with fledged chicks and/or chicks older than 23 days. Klepto-parasitism and night stints are being conducted as staff time allows. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Roseate Terns (ROST)

Currently 12 ROST chicks have hatched, 6 of these have fledged, 3 remain unfledged, and 3 have not been found recently. ROST chicks become very difficult to locate as they grow older and are more mobile. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Black Skimmers (BLSK)

BLSK pair has been observed on the flats on the north tip of South Monomoy Island. BLSK have not been confirmed to be nesting on the refuge.

Least Terns (LETE)

Many LETE chicks have begun to fledge and can be seen flying around the main nesting areas. Productivity for LETE seems to be qualitatively good this year. More information will be provided once it becomes available.

Nano Tag Pilot Study

Now that all of the tags have been placed on birds, data collection is in full swing. Soon the tagged birds will be moving to staging areas and boat surveys will be conducted to detect birds using areas away from the nesting colony.

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
30	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

JULY 2013						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		